

# RSVP NEWS

July 2017

CENTRE COUNTY  
RETIRED and SENIOR VOLUNTEER  
PROGRAM  
(814) 355-6816

**RSVP STAFF:**

Brenda Reeve – Coordinator  
Maryanne Gilbert - Assistant

**RSVP Advisory Council**

Marsha Sackash-Chair  
Kevin Barr-Co-Chair  
Roger Cartright  
Paul Confer  
Lance Cooper  
Mel Curtis  
Bonita (Bonnie) DeBrasky  
Roberta Hardin  
Geoff Harford  
Robert Kidder  
Sandra Lopez  
Ben Malone  
Pat Park  
Judith(Judy) Pressler  
Dave Schuckers  
Donna Shawley  
Wilma Shuey  
Edwina Sims



It has been a very busy 6 months for RSVP volunteers and staff. The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program (VITA) volunteers scheduled and completed over 1,400 tax returns. We concluded our Pen Pal Program by holding Meet & Greets at each of the Bald Eagle Area Elementary Schools for the season. We sorted, folded, and stacked shirts for Trash to Treasure. We helped

register Athletes for the Healthy Athletes area at Special Olympics (beautiful weather and fun loving athletes). Maryanne and I have gone out to various organizations to talk about RSVP. I think Maryanne and I have been out of the office more than we have been in. Maryanne and I have jumped in with both feet to learn our new positions.

We are looking forward to the next 6 months. We will be helping at 4<sup>th</sup> Fest. Our 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Volunteer Recognition Luncheon will be held in October. We will be starting up the Pen Pal

Program again. We will be training and certifying VITA volunteers. We will be wrapping up the end of the year with helping to wrap toys for Toys for Tots.

So, if you are looking for something to do, give us a call at 814.355.6816, Maryanne and I will be glad to schedule you for one or all the projects coming up.

Have a fun and safe 4<sup>th</sup>!

**Brenda**



*Trash to Treasure 2017*

## In This Issue

- News from Brenda
- News from Maryanne
- VITA and Pen Pal Update
- Volunteer /Partner Recognition
- Volunteer Opportunities

## Pen Pal News

Pen Pal meet and greets are complete. What an outstanding success! Many friendships were formed through this program. As Mr. Miles ( BEA Superintendent) said “ It’s like Christmas in May for these kids”.

If you have not returned your Pen Pal Survey to Maryanne please do so asap. We have already started working on next years Pen Pal Program.



## VITA Program Update:

Another successful program for RSVP! Thank you to all of our VITA Volunteers for the 2016 Tax season.

On Thursday, May 4th a recognition dinner was held for the VITA volunteers who successfully completed 1,400+ tax returns.

Diana Smith, IRS, reported that the RSVP Centre County had a lot to celebrate. Many sites reported a decline in tax returns this year. RSVP Centre County had a 8% increase. CONGRATULATIONS!



## High Lighted Partnership with RSVP

### State College Area Meals

on Wheels prepares and delivers over 43,000 meals each year to homebound persons in the Centre Region. Since 1971, over 1.4 million meals have been delivered. No government tax dollars are used to fund this non-profit, home-delivered meal program. More than 150 volunteers and a staff of three, and space provided by Grace Lutheran Church (GLC) make this service possible.

Nutritious meals are planned and prepared in the GLC kitchen, and delivered to the homes of clients each Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. This service helps maintain good nutrition for the clients so that they can remain in their own homes for as long as possible. Persons of any age may apply. Volunteers are the lifeblood of Meals on Wheels. Volunteering with Meals on Wheels is a meaningful and satisfying way to give back to the local community.



State College Area  
**Meals on Wheels**

## Volunteer of the Month Program

### John "Jack" Mulfinger

Jack accumulated over 2,700 hours of volunteering in 2016.

Jack volunteers for the American Red Cross Disaster Services of Centre County. When there is a disaster he doesn't hesitate, he is up and out the door in a flash grabbing blankets to put around those that have lost their homes to fire, those that flood waters have swept away their belongings, to accidents on major highways or any disaster in Centre County.

Jack helps put bikes and wagons together for Toys for Tots. Each and every bike and wagon is put together with joy and patience.

4th Fest is another volunteer opportunity that Jack takes advantage of. He patrols his assigned area with eagerness to make sure all is safe so all can see the fireworks with amazement.

Jack graciously donates his time and cooking talents to our VITA volunteers by providing a warm meal and scrumptious dessert.

Please join Brenda and Maryanne in saying.....

"THANK YOU" Jack for your dedication!

## Featured Recipe

### "Zucchini Stuff"

2 Tablespoon Butter  
1 Large Onion  
2 Cloves of Garlic (minced)  
2 Small Zucchini (sliced)  
2 Medium Tomatoes (chopped)  
Salt (to taste)  
Pepper (to taste)  
Italian Seasoning (to taste)  
Grated Parmesan Cheese and/or Mozzarella Cheese

Melt butter in large frying pan. Sauté onion and garlic until it becomes translucent. Add zucchini, salt, pepper and Italian seasoning to taste. Cover and cook until zucchini softens, stirring occasionally. Add tomatoes and continue to cook until they are heated through. Top with grated and/or shredded cheese. Cover pan and heat until cheese melts.

Submitted by: Chris Mulfinger

Please continue to submit recipes to Maryanne~megilbert@centrecountypa.gov

## Volunteer Opportunities:

[Summer Lunch Program in need of Crafty and kid oriented volunteer.](#)

**Craft Presenter** – Lead the children in a craft after Lunch

**Game Supervisors** – Lead the children in a game before lunch.

**Environment** – Pleasant Outdoor setting under canopies.

**Dates** – Monday-Friday 11:30am-1:15pm, 6/12/17 - 8/18/17

**Location** – Miles Trailer Park outside of Port Matilda.

**Contact** – Christina Richards 814-238-8562 or [cmr5@psu.edu](mailto:cmr5@psu.edu)



Hello everyone! WOW what a great start to being a part of RSVP. All the special projects and getting out into the community has been such a fun and unique learning experience. The office is such a pleasant place to be also. Please stop in and visit with Brenda and I when you get a chance.

In the last newsletter we sent out a form asking for your updated contact information. I have received many back. If you have not been able to return the form that's ok, just email me or mail the form in. Thank you!

Have a safe and enjoyable summer ~ Maryanne





## **"Contributing to our environment"**

Our mission is to help develop and to support teams of seniors who gather and publish data on the quality of water in our streams.

CCPaSEC is not just about water quality. We offer a means of those over 55 or retired to learn new things and meet folks with a wide variety of backgrounds and experiences. Social interaction contributes to psychological and physical wellness. People can express their feelings and share their problems to cope with stress and major life changes.

CCPaSEC's Team 1 interactions are an excellent example. Story by Carolyn Hatley



### **"Turning Silver into Gold"**

We were the first team to begin monitoring under the original government-sponsored program by the Environmental Alliance for Senior Involvement (EASI) program, and we have been continuously monitoring Slab Cabin Run and Galbraith Gap Run since 2002.

First and foremost, we were all new to each other. We all met after reading an article written by Margaret Hopkins for the CDT titled "Group Helping Seniors Get Their Feet Wet". We were invited to Open House, Environmental Alliance for Senior Involvement, Centre County Chapter that was held at the Willowbank Building in Bellefonte. Our team was cobbled together by our mutual concern for the quality of our water resources, and over time by our concern for each other as well.

We committed to the training, spent many hours drafting and documenting things that were extremely cumbersome and time consuming. All the while, enjoying each others company and growing closer as a group with different personalities, backgrounds, and professions.

Our relationships expanded with the spouses and after that first year we found we were including each other in social functions. Not only did we spend time water testing but started having periodic lunch or dinners together. We are grateful to have each other as part of our life! To think it all started as a result of our common interest in Water Quality and Stewardship of the Earth.

Eight of the original team (including spouses) continue to meet at different restaurants once a month throughout the year. They have celebrated anniversaries and holidays at gatherings in each other's homes, gone on social outings together, and prayed for each other when one member is ill. The team has become a "family" the way many CCPaSEC teams do. New teams are being formed all the time. Come join us and find new friends.

As the saying goes, *"Make new friends but keep the old. One is silver, the other gold."*

### **Derived Benefits**

Our volunteers visit sites each month to perform water surveys knowing they are contributing to the preservation of our environment whilst enjoying the companionship, a little outdoor exercise, and the changes of the seasons.

## **Volunteer Luncheon News**

The 32nd Annual Retired and Senior Volunteer Luncheon is fast approaching.

Monday, October 30, 2017

Sponsor letters have been sent out. If you know of anyone that would like to sponsor a table, donate a door prize and/or promotional item please contact:

Brenda~ [breeve@centrecountypa.gov](mailto:breeve@centrecountypa.gov) or Maryanne~ [megilbert@centrecountypa.gov](mailto:megilbert@centrecountypa.gov)

**\*\*Remember to submit your hours so you can attend\*\***

What a great group of RSVP volunteers and staff. This newsletter reflects the great things you are accomplishing! Projects such as enriching our youth through the Pen Pal program to the VITA program which assists those in need of tax preparation. We know this makes all the difference to so many in our community. But we are not done. One glance at this newsletter shows we have many more meaningful community engagement opportunities available. What a great honor it is to be a part of such a great organization and to have an opportunity to get to know you better. Please feel free to stop by and say hello. Together we are, can and will continue to make all the difference.



Ken Pendleton  
Centre County Director of The Office of Aging.

## **Fun Facts about Pennsylvania**

- \*Pennsylvania's state insect is the firefly.**
- \*The oldest gas station in the US is located in Altoona.**
- \*The Monongahela River, located in Western PA, is unique in that it flows north.**
- \*The nation's oldest golf course is located in Clarion.**
- \*The first department store in the U.S. was located in Philadelphia. It was called Wanamaker's.**
- \*The only president from Pennsylvania was James Buchanan.**
- \*The Philadelphia Eagles and the Pittsburgh Steelers merged to form the Steagles for one season in 1943. The teams merged because both lost so many players to military service during WWII.**
- \*One weird Pennsylvania law forbids singing in the bath.**

## DID YOU KNOW ?

The Retired and Senior Volunteer Program offers the opportunity for adults 55+ to pursue their passion, not just for themselves, but in service to others and the community. RSVP currently has 1,200 registered volunteers and 800+ active volunteers serving 70+ non-profit partners. In the year of 2016 RSVP volunteers provided over 65,000 hours of their time to the Centre County Area.

The benefits of being an RSVP member are many. Here are a few:

\*You are covered by a supplemental insurance while you volunteer.

\*RSVP assists you in identifying the passions you want to pursue through community service.

\*As a RSVP volunteer you can set your own hours to your needs and be active in your community.

The possibilities are endless! Contact us today!

## Contact Us

Give us a call for more information about RSVP

Brenda Reeve  
Project Coordinator  
[breeve@centrecountypa.gov](mailto:breeve@centrecountypa.gov)

Or

Maryanne Gilbert  
Assistant  
[megilbert@centrecountypa.gov](mailto:megilbert@centrecountypa.gov)

814-355-6816

Like us on Facebook!

Supported by CNCS  
Centre County  
Commissioners and Office of Aging.

Retired and Senior Volunteer Program  
420 Holmes Street, Room 245  
Bellefonte, PA 16823

PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE